

## Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

SAB-01 /078 W

----- 002838

R 201234Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8045

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IS SY EG

SUBJECT: MARGALIT ON POSSIBLE "AGREEMENT" WITH SYRIA

1. DEPT MAY BE INTERESTED IN ARTICLE IN AUG 20  
HAARETZ BY WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENT MARGALIT,  
IN WHICH MARGALIT ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN CURRENT  
SYRIAN SILENCE IN FACE OF PROBABLE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN  
INTERIM ACCORD.

2. MARGALIT WRITES THAT WASHINGTON DOES NOT ACCEPT  
ISRAELI VIEW THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH SYRIA MUST CON-  
CERN FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT, SINCE THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE  
IN NEAR FUTURE AND AMERICANS ARE TRYING TO OBTAIN  
"A LITTLE SOMETHING" FOR ASAD NOW. ACCORDING TO  
MARGALIT, THE US IS SUGGESTING THE TRANSFER OF THE  
HILLS OVERLOOKING KUNEITRA FROM THE IDF TO THE SYRIAN  
AUTHORITIES, THE REMOVAL OF UN OBSERVERS FROM THE  
SUMMIT OF MT. HERMON, AND THE TRANSFER OF THE MT.  
HERMON SUMMIT TO THE SYRIANS. ON THE ASSUMPTION  
THAT THESE "COSMETIC CHANGES" WOULD BE INSUFFICIENT  
TO SYRIA, MARGALIT ATTEMPTS TO EXPLAIN WHY SYRIA IS  
REMAINING SILENT AS MOVENBNT CONTINUES TOWARD AN  
EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT.

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3. MARGALIT OFFERS AS POSSIBLE EXPLANATION THAT ISRAEL HAS ALREADY HINTED TO US THAT IT WOULD AGREE TO THE SUGGESTED CHANGES, BUT AS A UNILATERAL ISRAELI GESTURE DESIGNED TO REINFORCE THE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT RATHER THAN AS AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA. HE ADDS THAT ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO THIS COURSE OF ACTION IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENTS NOW BEING WORKED OUT, BUT RATHER IS AN "ORAL UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE US; NEVERTHELESS, ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, IT HAS BEEN RECORDED IN JERUSALEM, WASHINGTON AND DAMASCUS AS A "POLITICAL-DEPLOMATIC FACT".

4. MARGALIT GOES ON TO REASON THAT, IF THE FOREGOING IS TRUE, THEN THE US WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE A LONG-TERM TIMETABLE WHICH HAS APPARENTLY BEEN COORDINATED WITH EGYPT. HE WRITES "FIRST THERE WILL BE THE INTERIM SETTLEMENT IN SINAI. THE MAIN GAIN THIS SETTLEMENT WILL PROVIDE FOR ISRAEL IS THE PERIOD OF TIME, WHICH IS ALSO NEEDED BY WASHINGTON AS WELL AS CAIRO. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN IT, IT IS NECESSARY TO APPEASE THE SYRIANS. THE ISRAELI UNILATERAL GESTURE WOULD ENABLE SADAT TO CLAIM THAT HE DEALT NOT ONLY WITH SINAI BUT ALSO WITH A PARTIAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL ON THE GOLAN.AC ABOVE ALL, THE GESTURE WOULD ENABLE DAMASCUS TO CLAIM THAT SHE HAS ACHIEVED AN ISRARI WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ANY "COUNTER-VALUE" ON HER PART."  
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## Message Attributes

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